

flections, on a question in the decision of which our constituents are so deeply concerned.

About to retire to a private walk, I may be, on this occasion, indulged in the declaration, that every act of my public life has been dictated by the desire to be faithful to my constituents in every honest effort to promote the lasting honor, and permanent welfare of our State, in all its relations, Federal and Domestic. The sacrifices of private interest, and of personal feeling, which I have been compelled to make, are abundantly recompensed by deep emotions of gratified pride at the unwavering and uniform confidence with which, for many years, I have been sustained by my constituents, in the efforts, however feeble, which I have made to advance, to the best of my ability, the true interests of those who have confided to me high and important trusts.

In that retirement to which I go, I shall hail, with exultation, the evidences of wisdom and patriotism on the part of yourselves, and your successors, which will lift my native State into the rank which she has a right to occupy among her sisters of the Union; and by the honorable discharge of all her obligations, and the development of her resources, to secure to her, forever, in peace and in war, the blessing and the strength of liberty, happiness and glory.

FRANCIS THOMAS.